7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

354 wards the roof, but ſpreads a thick black
342 cloud over the chamber; and as it ſeldom has time wholly to evaporate, the interior part of theſe iſbas is lined with ſoot, which gives them a diſguſting aſpect and a moſt offenſive ſmell.

354 But it is ſtill leſs unpleaſant than the
356 noiſome odour exhaled from a diſmal lamp, that ſerves as a light to the whole houſe. Its form is not of the moſt elegant kind: it is ſimply a hollow pebble or ſtone, with a rag rolled up in the middle for a wick, round which is placed the greaſe of the ſea wolf, or other animals. As ſoon as the wick is lighted, we are immediately ſurrounded with a dark and thick vapour, which contributes equally with the ſmoke to blacken the whole room: it ſeiſes the noſe and throat, and penetrates to the very heart. This is not the only diſagreeable ſmell that is experienced in theſe habitations; there is

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

356 another, in my opinion, much more fetid, and which I never could endure; it is the nauſeous exhalation from the dried and ſtinking fiſh, when it is preparing, when they are eating it, and even after it is eaten. The refuſe is deſtined for the dogs; but before the poor animals get it, every corner of the room has been ſwept with it.

511 The perſons who inhabit theſe dwellings exhibit a ſpectacle equally diſguſting. Here is a group of women, ſhining from the fat with which they ſmear themſelves, and wallowing on the ground amidſt a heap of rags; ſome of them ſuckling their children, who are half naked, and bedaubed with filth from head to foot; others devouring with them ſome ſcraps of fiſh perfectly raw, and frequently putrid. There we ſee others in a diſhabille that is not leſs filthy, lying upon bear's ſkins, chattering to one another, and frequently altogether,

and

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

353 corner of the apartment * a wretched image of ſome ſaint, ſhining with greaſe and blackened with ſmoke. It is before theſe images that the Kamtſchadales bow themſelves, and offer their prayers. The reſt of the furniture conſiſts of ſeats and ſome veſſels, made either of wood, or the bark of trees. Their cookery utenſils are of copper or iron; but they are all diſguſtingly filthy. The remains of their dried fiſh are ſcattered about the room, and the women or the children are continually broiling pieces of ſalmon ſkin, which is one of their favourite meats.

352 415 356 511

171 291 854 The ſingularity of the children's dreſs particularly attracted my attention; it is ſaid exactly to reſemble that of the Koriacs. It conſiſts of only one garment, that is, of a

* This nook is in a manner diſtinct from the room, and is leſs filthy, becauſe it is leſs frequented. It is a place of honour ſet apart for ſtrangers.

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